

# Rush County Health Board Meeting

**Date:** July 17, 2018, 7:00 P.M.

## Attendees:

Helen Steussy, MD-Health Officer  
Tai Morrell, FNP- Chairperson  
Fred Philips, DVM- Vice-Chairperson  
Kendra Steible  
Marge Amos

Bruce Levi  
Carol Yager – MT  
Russell Daugherty, MD  
Greg Pratt, RPh  
Sherry McKinney- Clerical

## Guests

Terri Nigh- Environmentalist  
Desmond Stevens

Kim Roe- Env. Scientist ISDH  
Jerry Stevens- refused to sign in

Called meeting to order at 7:02 M.

## Financial Report:

Sherry told the board the finances were doing fine, we have to watch the spending.  
Tai wants Sherry to make an appointment with Jodi to discuss the budget.

## Guests:

Terri Nigh and Kim Roe were here to discuss the findings of the dye testing (a diagnostic tool) at the Geise property, but before they gave their report Tai gave Jerry and Desmond Stevens a chance to speak. They were here to complain about effluent coming on to Jerry's property. Kim Roe, from ISDH, told the board that the first bacterial water test was positive for E.coli. The second water test performed showed signs of personal care products, such as Tylenol, sugar substitute, caffeine, Deet and Aleve, which proves the effluent came from a human source. Kim stated it was up to the home owner to prove they have a viable system, which includes a septic tank and a soil absorption field. They need to have a qualified inspector or a certified IOWPA (Indiana Onsite Wastewater Professional Association) inspector to inspect it, and document the system to the satisfaction of Rush County and that it is not in failure. Kim's recommendation was that since all the numbers at the Geise property were high, that's where things should start. Terri told the board at this point the Geise's haven't given permission to do the testing. Kim told the board that if Mr. Geise couldn't provide record and documentation of the septic system that it should be capped at the tank and pumped and hauled. Kim stated that by:

**Indiana code 410 IAC 6-8.3-51** Administrative authority Sec. 51. (a) This rule shall be administered by the local boards of health through their health officer and his or her authorized representatives. (b) Nothing in this rule shall be construed as prohibiting more stringent requirements in local ordinances. (c) Each local health department residential on-site sewage system permit program is subject to review by the department. Such review may include, but not be limited to, a review of the permits issued, supporting documentation, and a review of on-site sewage system installations. (d) The department, its agent, or the health officer or his or her agent shall be permitted to enter upon all properties at the proper time for the following purposes necessary to achieve compliance with this rule: (1) Inspection. (2) Observation. (3) Measurement. (4) Sampling. (5) Testing.



**Indiana Code 16-20-1-23.** Inspection of private property by local health officer; with consent by owner; exceptions; without consent, a court order must be obtained; property in which officer has interest.

After a lengthy discussion, Kendra made a motion to have all surrounding homes prove they have a viable septic system, not in failure or certified by a Rush County Department of Health qualified installer or inspected by an IOWPA qualified inspector. All home owners are to provide proof and have that information to the board within four weeks. Greg seconded. All members voted to accept. Motion carried. Due to possible conflict Bruce abstained from the vote.

A second motion was made by Greg that if a property owner refuses to show proof of a viable septic system by July 31, 2018, or to show proof of having a scheduled visit by an IOWPA certified installer by August 14, 2018, the board will proceed to request a court order to cap their septic system and they will have to pump and haul, and they will have to show proof of pumping by a certified pumper. Carol seconded. All members voted to accept. Motion carried. Bruce abstained.

### **Review of Minutes & Reports:**

The June Minutes were presented for review. Dr. Philips moved to accept the minutes, after the correction of putting Kendra's name on the sheet as an attendee. Kendra seconded. All members voted to accept. Motion carried.

The board reviewed the Nursing, Preparedness, Environmental, and Community Outreach reports. Dr. Philips moved to accept the reports. Kendra seconded. All members voted to accept. Motion carried. Due to time, Dr. Steussy didn't have any new business at this time.

### **New Business:**

Tai talked about people in the community who were overweight and couldn't afford to pay to go to someplace like Weight Watcher's, but if the Health Department or maybe Rush2Health could do something for these people, like start up a program something like Weight Watchers. The department could help them learn how to make healthy choices and do some simple exercises. Dr. Steussy said maybe Dixie could talk with Rush2Health and see if they could do anything.

### **Old Business:**

Terri gave the board paperwork she was wanting to get approved concerning the policy of final inspection, and have it titled "Final Septic Inspection Process". There is a process for getting this done, but Mr. Stevens told the board that he will **NOT** supply the County with tools to do their job. Terri tried to explain that she wasn't asking to use his tools, but just needed to be there to verify the numbers. Mr. Stevens spoke up and told the board that **absolutely no one** was to be on his property while he was installing due to his insurance policies. Dr. Steussy said maybe we should table the discussion until the next meeting. Kendra made a motion to table the policy discussion until the next meeting which will be August 21, 2018, at 7:00 P.M. Dr. Daugherty seconded. All members voted to accept. Motion carried

Tai spoke about the process at the jail, and has had positive results. They have four people signed up so far. She said that Meridian Health has started the process of getting the inmates signed up for insurance. She is trying to get Centerstone involved to help anyone that might have Mental Health issues so if need be they could speak with a psychiatrist or a therapist. She also talked about trying to attend a meeting with the LCC (Local Coordinating Council for a safe and drug free schools and communities).

Dr. Steussy told the board the Health Department was still looking into purchasing signs for Willkie Days bike ride. We were getting estimates ready to send to the state for approval.

### **Adjournment:**

Greg made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kendra seconded. All members voted to accept. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned 8:13 P.M.

**Next meeting September 18, 2018 7:00 P.M.**